

Public Notice: Request for Comments

2014 Draft Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan

Notice issued _____, 2014, comments due 5 p.m. Monday, _____, 2014



Background

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requesting comments on a Draft Oregon Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program Plan, also known as the Oregon NPS Plan.

DEQ is updating its existing Oregon NPS Plan last completed in October 2000. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) how requires each state's plan to be updated every five (5) years.

Oregon NPS Plan's purpose

The Oregon NPS Plan describes the goals, priorities, objectives and strategies of the Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program, which aims to prevent, control and eliminate water pollution from NPS sources in Oregon's waters of the state.

The plan includes the measures necessary to meet federal and state surface and groundwater water quality standards, drinking water standards, and meet established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations for any waterbody designated as water quality limited on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters.

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of NPS water pollution. NPS pollution is water pollution that does not originate from regulated sources (such as drainpipes).

NPS pollution occurs when rainfall and snowmelt flows off the agriculture, forest, rural residential, and urban land uses, roads, buildings and other features of the landscape. This diffuse runoff carries pollutants into drainage ditches, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, bays aquifers, and other waters of the state.

Since the NPS Management Program Plan is a long-term planning document covering five years, some of the annual-milestones may be more general than are expected in an Oregon NPS Pollution Program Annual workplans Report. However, they need to be specific enough for the state to track progress and for EPA to determine satisfactory progress in accordance with Section 319 of the federal CWA.

The Oregon NPS Plan represents a unified approach reflecting the fact that Oregon intends to continue to collaborate, implement and prioritize actions to address NPS problems on a statewide watershed basis.

Written comments due _____, 2014.

DEQ is taking written comments on this draft Oregon NPS Plan through 5 p.m. Monday, _____. Comments may be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to DEQ.

Mail comments to Don Yon, DEQ Water Quality Division, 811 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97204. Comments may also be e-mailed to yon.donald.r@deq.state.or.us or faxed to Don Yon at 503-229-6037. Don Yon may be reached directly at 503-229-6850, toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011, x 6850.

How can I review the document?

Internet: The draft Oregon NPS Plan can be viewed on DEQ's website at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/nonpoint.htm>.

DEQ Offices*: The Oregon NPS Plan is also available for review and copying at the following DEQ offices:

Portland: 811 S.W. 6th Ave.
Medford: 221 Stewart Ave., Suite 201
Eugene: 165 E. 7th Ave., Suite 100
Bend: 475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110

Commented [CJ2]: The annual milestones are contained in the annual workplans and evaluated as to progress via the annual report.

Commented [CJ1]: Otherwise folks will wonder why the plan has not been updated since 2000.

Commented [CJ3]: May want to include entities in which Oregon plans to collaborate. In the Executive Summary of the Plan, you note that "One of Oregon's primary goals is to strengthen its working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizens groups, and federal agencies."

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review, scheduling an appointment at a DEQ office is encouraged to ensure documents are readily

accessible during your visit. For a review appointment in Portland, call Trina Brown at 503-229-6982. For Medford appointments, call 541-776-6010. For Eugene appointments, call 541-686-7838. For Bend appointments, call 541-388-6146.

What are DEQ's responsibilities?

DEQ is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve Oregon's environment. The EPA delegates DEQ under the Clean Water Act to ensure that the responsibility for managing water resources in Oregon is shared among several partners that work together in an active and effective partnership to protect state waters.

The NPS Management Program uses a combination of federal and state authorities for implementing statewide, programmatic and geographic priorities, objectives, and strategies to achieve its short- and long-term goals.

Who is responsible for implementing the Oregon NPS Plan?

Responsibility for managing water resources in Oregon is shared among several partners. The program relies on a combination of state and federal laws and local ordinances. It relies on coordination with several state agencies for its implementation.

Need for action

Oregon's NPS program conducts water quality monitoring and analysis, develops and uses technical water quality/Geographic Information System data with watershed partners. It uses a balanced approach of education, research, technical assistance, financial incentives and regulation.

DEQ also develops and implements pollution control and reduction strategies for a wide range of activities that affect the quality of the state's waters. These include but are not limited to forestry, agriculture, grazing, transportation, recreation, hydromodification, marinas and urban development, land-use planning, fish and wildlife habitat, streamside and wetlands protection and restoration, public education and water resources.

Clean Water Act Section 319 Funding

Another key component of Oregon's NPS Program is the coordination of monies that fund DEQ's NPS program staff and the NPS Grant Program. The 319-grant program

provides funding to cooperating entities for activities emphasizing watershed protection and enhancement, voluntary stewardship, and partnerships between all watershed stakeholders.

The Oregon NPS Plan program integrates with other relevant programs to restore and protect water quality, aligning priority setting processes and resources to increase efficiency and environmental results. This includes alignment with significant match funding provided through the Oregon Water Resources Board's parallel granting programs.

The Oregon NPS Plan describes outcomes and key actions expected over the five-year plan period. Some actions occur every year, others have fixed end target dates, and some occur every five years, such as updates to Oregon's NPS Program Management Plan and a five-year U.S. Bureau of Land Management /U.S. Forest Service /DEQ memorandum of understanding progress report and recommendations for revisions/updates to the Oregon NPS Plan.

Some examples of annual milestones ~~include~~are developing an annual section 319 grant work plan, implementing projects in various high-priority impaired watersheds, and describing a number of success stories in Oregon's NPS Annual Report submitted to EPA.

What happens next?

DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period. DEQ ~~does not plan to will not~~ hold a public hearing about the proposed plan ~~nor~~ respond directly to comments.

Following its review, DEQ will modify the plan if necessary and send to EPA for approval. DEQ will notify all commenter-s and affected parties about plan updates. If you do not comment and are not an affected party but wish to receive notification, please contact DEQ as indicated previously in this notice.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ at 503-229-



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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Commented [CJ4]: May want to include the role of the public, citizen groups etc.

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800-452-4011, x 5696.

People with hearing impairments may call
711.



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